

WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE UNITED DISTRICT

(East Dean, West Dean & Lydney Rural District Councils)

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

A. T. HUNT,
M.B., B.S.(Lond.), D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

FOR THE YEAR

1951

West Gloucestershire United District

(EAST DEAN, WEST DEAN AND LYDNEY RURAL DISTRICTS).

ANNUAL REPORT

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1951.

DIVISIONAL HEALTH OFFICE,
COLEFORD, GLOS.

To the Chairmen and Members of the Rural District Councils
of the West Gloucestershire United District.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1951. In this I have attempted to outline the sanitary problems and some of the health problems of your area.

I should like to thank the sanitary inspectors for their loyal support during the year and thank the other officers for their co-operation. In carrying out the Ministry of Health's instructions on the compiling of this report I have needed the assistance not only of the sanitary inspectors but also of the surveyors, clerks and rating officers. To all these officers I am grateful for their ready assistance.

There are innumerable sanitary problems in your area due largely to the lack of planning in days gone by, the lack of universal mains water supply so that many impure and doubtful sources are used, and the lack of sewerage in many parts leading to pollution of the streams and many septic tanks, many of which are on a clay sub-soil. These facts, together with the poor standard of many of the houses, make the work of your sanitary inspectors exceptionally heavy and the work of rectification tremendous.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. T. HUNT,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Staff

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE THREE DISTRICT COUNCILS:

A. T. HUNT, M.B., B.S. (LOND.), D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

SANITARY INSPECTORS:—

EAST DEAN

A. D. PARSONS, M.S.I.A., M.R.SAN.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

R. R. CHARMAN, M.S.I.A., M.R.SAN.I.

WEST DEAN

V. G. HUDSON, M.S.I.A., M.R.SAN.I.

LYDNEY

W. M. RICHARDS, M.S.I.A.

VITAL STATISTICS

Population

The Census was held during the year and the Preliminary Report published.

	1931			1951		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
East Dean	10,017	9,539	19,556	10,266	10,343	20,609
West Dean	9,377	8,674	18,051	9,105	9,068	18,173
Lydney R.D.	5,881	4,977	10,858	6,308	5,577	11,885
Total Area	25,275	23,190	48,465	25,679	24,988	50,667

In these twenty years the total population has thus increased by 2,202.

The detailed analysis of the Census is not yet published, so to get the parish and ward populations given in the tables I have apportioned the Census figures according to the electoral lists.

Area comparability factors for the birth and death rates were issued by the Registrar General and these 'correct' the local birth and death rates for irregularities of distribution of age and sex so as to make these rates a more accurate method of comparing the healthiness of one area with that of another.

Birth and Death Rates Compared

(Births and Deaths per 1,000 population)

	Birth Rate	Death Rate
England and Wales	15.5	12.5
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London) ..	17.3	13.4
148 Smaller Towns	16.7	12.5
(25,000—50,000 population)		
London Administrative County .	17.8	13.1
Gloucestershire	15.5	12.0
Combined Forest Area	15.9(17.2)	12.3(12.3)
East Dean R.D.	17.6(18.3)	11.5(11.7)
West Dean R.D.	13.9(15.3)	13.8(13.4)
Lydney R.D.	16.1(18.5)	11.3(11.4)

The figures in brackets are the corrected rates.

You will notice that the East Dean and Lydney R.D.s have birth rates higher and death rates lower than the National rates. The West Dean R.D., however, has a lower birth rate and a higher death rate than the National rates and, in fact, these rates are almost the same as each other and the excess of births over deaths is only one. The population is thus scarcely maintaining itself.

The 23 deaths in infants under 1 year to the 701 live births is too small a figure to work out an Infantile Mortality Rate but it appears to tally with the National rate of 29.6. There were, unfortunately, two maternal deaths this year, both in the West Dean R.D.

GENERAL ITEMS

Analyst.

Mr. Ellis ceased his appointment as County Analyst on the 21st of September and on that date the County Council's Scheme for reduced rates of charges ceased. The nearest Public Health Laboratory is at Newport and the Director was willing to accept, for bacteriological examination, samples of drinking and swimming water and of milk, ice-cream and other foodstuffs as distributed to the public, and a commencement was made in taking samples to this Laboratory.

Food Hygiene—Dogs in Shops, Restaurants, etc.

In response to a circular of the Ministry of Food dated 24th October my three Councils decided to issue notices to the effect that it is in the interest of hygiene not to bring dogs into premises in which food is sold. These notices were welcomed and almost without exception every shop in the area displayed them.

Housing of Evicted Persons.

The ambiguity of the law in placing the responsibility for the accommodation of evicted person was most unfortunate. The great difficulty that would be experienced by the County Council in providing accommodation for all such persons is quite obvious but at the same time the difficulty for the District Councils to provide accommodation without allowing persons, who should have made efforts themselves to get accommodation, to jump the housing queue, is clear. The chaos that is liable to arise if the District Council could not evict persons from their own houses for non-payment of rent is also obvious. The predicament of persons who are evicted through no fault of their own is most unfortunate.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.

The removal of persons in need of care and attention.

The East Dean R.D.C. obtained an Order for the removal of a middle aged spinster suffering from rheumatoid arthritis to a hospital for the chronic sick. She was living in filthy conditions and unable to look after herself. On the expiry of the three months period she did not ask to leave the hospital.

The West Dean R.D.C. obtained an Order for the removal of an old lady of over eighty to a hospital for the chronic sick and she did not discharge herself at the end of the period of three months. An Order was also obtained for the removal of a man who was sleeping rough in bushes and sometimes trespassing in a boiler house and was filthy in the extreme.

The Lydney R.D.C. applied for the removal of a man of 48 who was partly paralysed and who was living in filthy conditions but before the action he went into "Part III" accommodation voluntarily.

Other cases were represented to me as in need of removal but only in these cases stated above did I find such action essential.

National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951.

This came into force on the 1st of September and enables the Council to remove a person for three weeks on the certificate of another practitioner and of myself that it is the interests of the person that he or she be removed urgently, on an Order of a Court of Summary Jurisdiction or of a single Justice. In each case I was authorised by the Councils to act on their behalf.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Diphtheria

There were no cases of this disease during the year, 42.5% of children under five years of age and 62% of those from 5—15 years are protected against this disease by immunization. Of the 653 children immunized during the year, 260 were done by the family doctors and 393 by the Local Health Authority's Medical officers. Of these 653 children immunized 275 were in East Dean, 212 in West Dean and 166 in the Lydney R.D.

The number of children immunized before their first birthday was regrettably small but all the same the proportion of children immunized appears to render the child population infertile to this disease. The children whose parents have refused or neglected to have them immunized benefit because so many other children have been so protected. Such children who have not been immunized remain sensitive to the disease and may develop it in adult life. There may be sharp reminders of the danger of this disease at any time. In 1940 in East Dean alone there were 114 cases of diphtheria and of these nine died.

Vaccination against Smallpox.

There has been a drop in the number of children vaccinated since the Vaccination Acts were revoked. Last year only 112 children were vaccinated before their first birthday and only 259 persons altogether and 121 persons were re-vaccinated. Experience in recent epidemics has shown that vaccination in infancy is of value throughout life as death picked out the unvaccinated and, almost without exception, spared those who had been vaccinated even if this was many years before. Thus there is much to be said for systematic vaccination in infancy.

Influenza.

This was epidemic at the beginning of the year. The attack was severe and 27 deaths, mostly in old people, were ascribed to it. The number of claims to sickness benefit made at the National Insurance offices in the area rose from 109 for the last week in December to 590 in the third week in January.

The attendances at schools were greatly reduced. The epidemic struck at the beginning and reached its maximum in the latter part of the month.

Scarlet Fever.

There were 28 notifications during the year. These were sporadic and mostly mild. This disease continues less severe than formerly and is amenable to modern treatment, especially by penicillin.

Measles.

In East Dean this was epidemic in the first half of the year especially at Drybrook, Ruardean, Cinderford, Mitcheldean, Longhope and Blaisdon. In West Dean a severe epidemic occurred at Bream in January and February and recurred in May and June. This spread in February and March to Ellwood and Pillowell and there were cases at Broadwell, Milkwall and Coleford. In the Lydney R.D. there was an epidemic at Aylburton at the beginning of January spreading to Woolaston at the end of the month. It was also epidemic in the Tidenham parish from January to March and again in June. There were a few cases in Lydney in March and in April, St. Briavels had the first epidemic for eight years. There were 628 notifications altogether and this represents a considerable amount of suffering which cannot at present be prevented. The incidence and severity of complications has been reduced, however, by the new therapeutic substances.

Whooping Cough.

Sporadic cases occurred throughout the year and there were tendencies to form epidemics at Drybrook in March, Sedbury in June and Littledean in August. Some attacks were superimposed on those of measles at Bream. Immunization against this disease appears to be of value and can be done by family doctors but it has not yet reached the stage of reliance so that it can be sponsored by the Health Authority.

Mumps.

This was epidemic at Tidenham in May and June, at Alvington in June and at Bream in June and July. This disease continues mild in children but tends to be severe in adults.

Chickenpox.

Epidemics occurred at Blaisdon in March and April, Longhope and Parkend in May, Coleford in June and at Clearwell, Pillowell and Woolaston in July, and amongst the children at St. White's School in December.

Pneumonia.

Only lobar or acute primary pneumonia and influenzal pneumonia are notifiable and the rate of notification is very low. Only 19 cases were notified, whereas cases do occur in contacts of these diseases, the value of notification is not great.

Erysipelas.

There were only two cases, a woman at Broadwell and a man at Tidenham, both in March.

Epidemic conjunctivitis

This was epidemic at Tutshill in March and at Woolaston in November and December.

Paratyphoid A Fever.

A case arose in a visitor to Lydney who had just returned from a holiday in France.

Meningococcal Infection.

A baby at Aylburton developed this disease and treated in hospital and recovered.

Puerperal pyrexia.

There was a case of this disease at Mitcheldean in August. New Regulations which came into force during the year make any rise of temperature to 100.4 deg. F. or higher during fourteen days of childbirth notifiable. This change is to prevent infectious cases treated by the newer drugs and antibiotics from escaping notice and is bound to lead to an increase in the number of notifications.

Ophthalmia neonatorum.

A case of this infection of the eyes of a new born child was notified in August from Mitcheldean.

Weils Disease. (Spirochaetosis icterohaemorrhagica)

There was a case of this disease in a man at Blakeney. This is an infection which is often present in rats and is caught by man through contact with the animal or its urine. This man often caught rats in the stream in the village.

Encephalitis.

Not a single case of poliomyelitis was notified during the year but in September an epidemic of a different disease affecting the central nervous system became evident and the first cases of this were at first thought to be non-paralytic poliomyelitis. Most of the cases were illnesses of only two to four days duration and consisted of some pyrexia with transient meningeal signs, severe headaches, sometimes photophobia, vomiting, drowsiness and confusion. The first cases arose at the Army Apprentices School at Beachley, the first became ill three days after returning from leave in Yorkshire. Another case arose five days later in a young man who was sleeping in the next bed and two more cases arose a week later and another case arose 12 days after these in a civilian working at the camp. Shortly after the first of these cases, a number of cases arose in Cinderford, followed by cases at Lydney, Yorkley, Blakeley and Mitcheldean with scattered cases elsewhere. There appeared to be no connection with these and the Beachley cases. Several cases were very ill, convalescence was sometimes long but there were no permanent sequelae. Forty cases were notified altogether and 12 were admitted to hospital but the total number of cases must have amounted to several hundred. In most of the cases the illness was so mild or indefinite that notification did not seem justifiable. No cases were notified from other parts of the County except for several in the Gloucester Rural District and the City of Gloucester. The staff of both the hospitals to which cases were admitted, the City General Hospital and the Over Isolation Hospital, diagnosed the cases as encephalitis. A Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, Dr. D. Thomson, visited the district and I arranged for him to see some of the cases and the case histories of others and to meet some of the doctors dealing with the cases. Dr. Thomson regarded the disease as the same as what had been called benign chorion meningitis or aseptic meningitis elsewhere, and which was epidemic in various parts of the country. This appears to be a new disease and is due to a virus. Its relationship to poliomyelitis and other forms of encephalitis is not known.

Rubella (German Measles).

An epidemic of this disease occurred during the summer. There were isolated cases at Churcham and at Lydney as early as April but the epidemic did not develop until the end of May. In June the Weekly School Returns showed 200 cases. This disease is not notifiable and the only source of information is these School Returns but in view of the importance given to this disease recently it seems worthwhile to record this epidemic. It has been noticed that the occurrence of deformities in offspring is more frequent when the mother has had this disease during pregnancy. The more

isolated westernly villages were not affected (Aylburton, Woolaston, St. Briavels, Hewelsfield and Clearwell).

Food Poisoning.

Five cases occurred at Lydney in September. In two of these the organisms of one form of food poisoning, salmonella typhimurium, were isolated. All of these cases had eaten of one batch of meat pies produced by a large manufacturer.

There were two isolated cases of food poisoning at Mitcheldean in December and two isolated cases at St. Briavels in June.

Tuberculosis.

There were 69 new cases notified during the year and 459 names on the combined Registers at the end of the year. There were 17 deaths from the disease. This is the fifth year in succession that there has been a reduction in the number of deaths. The course of this disease is well illustrated by taking the average number of deaths for different sets of years in the East Dean R.D. Thus in the First World War the average number of deaths yearly was 27, this fell in the twenties to 12 and in the thirties was 13 and rose to 15 in the last World War and, after remaining high at the end of the war has now fallen so that the average for the last three years has been five.

Notifications during the year:

			Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
			Male	Female	Male	Female
East Dean	..	..	13	9	—	3
West Dean	..	..	13	15	4	—
Lydney R.D.	..	..	7	5	—	—

Cases on Registers at the end of the year:

			Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Totals
			Male	Female	Male	Female	
East Dean	..	..	79	65	17	12	173
West Dean	..	..	117	70	19	13	219
Lydney R.D.	..	..	33	23	3	8	67
			229	158	39	33	459

In recent years an efficient treatment and preventative organization has been built up in this County and this must have played its part in the reduction of the incidence and mortality of this disease. Diagnosis of this disease has been earlier, on the average, than ever before; the Mass Radiography Unit visited Cinderford, Lydney, Mitcheldean and Lydbrook and all miners were given an opportunity to be X-rayed. I was pleased to be able to assist the Organizer in arranging and advertising this visit and I am glad that 6,817 people altogether were X-rayed.

There is now rapid admission of cases to hospital, effective drugs and more surgical assistance towards cure. On the preventative side there is the important work of the health visitors, the investigation of contacts, a number of children are protected by B.C.G. vaccination. Of great importance is the re-housing of active cases living in small houses or living under overcrowded conditions. Education of the public in the infectious nature of this disease is important, the human lung is the reservoir of this disease from which the germs are ejected by coughing and by the sputum to infect others. Whereas many of the sufferers from this disease are thoughtful of their families and of others there are some who are not so considerate. Half of the West Dean notifications came from Lydbrook—a parish in which there is a number of active cases forming a relatively large reservoir of this infection.

The Forest of Dean Area Sub-Committee of the County Council Health Committee formed a Tuberculosis Care Committee for the Area. Some of the members of this Health Sub-Committee served on this Care Committee and made some very valuable co-options. The Health Visitors and myself also served. The funds came from various sources, donations, Sunday Cinema tolls especially from the Cinderford Cinema but also some from the Lydney Cinema and the Coleford Baptists' Christmas tree. Very valuable assistance was given to necessitous cases. Examples of the help given are, the repair of a radio for a case, materials for patients to make things while resting, extra food for children whose father had been off work for a long time, bedclothes and wearing apparel.

Typical of the newer actions taken against this disease and the sources from which this may come is the case of a miner who was X-rayed by the Mass Radiography Unit and the cough that he thought was due to smoking was found to be due to an early tuberculosis. He was living in poor and overcrowded conditions and was admitted to hospital in the course of two weeks. His children were investigated and immunized and when he was due for discharge he was re-housed into a new Council house and given a grant by the Care Committee towards the cost of removal.

Tuberculosis from milk. This has markedly decreased in post-war years and as tuberculosis of the cervical (neck) glands is

typically due to this infection the figures for the notifications of this form of infection are interesting. For the years 1937, 1938 and 1939 the average number of notifications was 21 whereas there have been no notifications for the years 1949, 1950 and 1951. This decrease is due to the pasteurisation and boiling of milk and to some reduction of the disease amongst cows.

EAST DEAN RURAL DISTRICT

Area=30,475 acres; Population=20,609 (Census), 20,420 (Registrar General's Estimate).

Number of inhabited houses=5,700

Rateable value=£55,960, Product of 1d. rate=£215/12/9.

Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	181	160	341	11	8	19	192	168	360
Still Births	3	4	7	2	—	2	5	4	9
Deaths under 1 year	7	4	11	—	—	—	7	4	11
Deaths under 4 weeks	3	3	6	—	—	—	3	3	6

Birth Rate=17.6 births per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.04 this gives a corrected rate of 18.3

Excess of births over deaths=360—235=125

Death Rate=11.5 deaths per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.02 it gives a corrected rate of 11.7.

Causes of Deaths

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system ..	3	2	5
Other forms of tuberculosis	—	1	1
Syphilitic disease	2	—	2
Cancer and other malignant neoplasms ..	18	18	36
Diabetes	1	—	1
Vascular lesions of the nervous system ..	15	18	33
Coronary disease and angina	12	6	18
Hypertension with heart disease	2	—	2
Other heart diseases	22	19	41
Other circulatory disease	2	4	6
Influenza	3	3	6
Pneumonia	3	1	4
Bronchitis	7	5	12
Other diseases of the respiratory system ..	6	1	7
Ulcer of the stomach and duodenum ..	3	—	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	2	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	6	2	8
Hyperplasia of the prostate	—	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion ..	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	1	—	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	13	25	38
Motor vehicle accidents	1	—	1
All other accidents	4	3	7
Suicide	—	—	—
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
All causes	125	110	235

Infectious Diseases Notified

			Measles	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia	Scarlet Fever	Acute Encephalitis	Food Poisoning
Male ..	..	..	82	40	—	8	7	2
Female ..	..	..	99	41	2	11	15	—
Total ..	..	..	181	81	2	19	22	2
AGE GROUPS	0+	..	12	7	—	—	—	—
	1+	..	33	17	—	1	1	—
	3+	..	45	25	—	4	—	—
	5+	..	65	29	—	8	4	—
	10+	..	14	2	1	5	5	—
	15+	..	9	—	—	1	4	—
	25+	..	3	1	—	—	6	1
	45+	..	—	—	—	—	2	1
	January ..	..	47	4	—	3	—	—
	February ..	..	10	11	—	1	—	—
	March ..	..	3	6	—	—	—	—
	April ..	..	11	3	1	—	—	—
	May ..	..	15	8	—	—	—	—
	June ..	..	27	7	1	1	—	—
	July ..	..	39	14	—	—	—	—
	August ..	..	3	14	—	1	—	—
	September ..	..	—	—	—	3	9	—
	October ..	..	3	2	—	1	12	—
	November ..	..	9	8	—	8	1	—
	December ..	..	14	4	—	1	—	2
Awre ..	..	..	—	8	—	3	3	—
Blaisdon ..	..	..	2	—	1	—	3	—
Churcham ..	..	..	1	—	—	—	—	—
Huntley ..	..	..	5	—	—	1	—	—
Longhope ..	..	..	6	16	—	1	—	—
Mitcheldean ..	..	..	32	5	—	—	2	2
Ruardean ..	..	..	8	3	—	—	—	—
Littledean ..	..	..	—	4	—	1	5	—
Cinderford ..	..	..	41	11	1	7	7	—
Ruspidge ..	..	..	4	—	—	—	—	—
Soudley ..	..	..	—	8	—	—	—	—
Plump Hill ..	..	..	2	—	—	1	—	—
Popes Hill ..	..	..	1	4	—	—	—	—
Blakeney Hill ..	..	..	—	1	—	—	—	—
Drybrook ..	..	..	79	21	—	5	2	—

Population, Number of Houses and Mains Water Supply.

Parish or Ward	Estimated Population	Number of Dwellings		Properties connected to mains water supply	
		Houses	Huts	(i) Direct	(ii) by standpipe
Cinderford	7116	1974	25	1982	—
Ruspidge	1402	374	13	374	—
Soudley	567	149	1	114	—
Plump Hill	717	214	6	91	32
Popes Hill	556	175	1	65	—
Drybrook	2978	820	6	810	—
Blakeney Hill	824	222	2	207	—
TOTAL					
EAST DEAN PARISH ..	14160	3928	54	3643	32
Awre	1075	298	—	26	70
Blaisdon	329	85	1	1	26
Churcham	663	191	3	15	—
Huntley	463	117	2	39	—
Littledean	812	224	—	183	—
Longhope	1098	300	7	—	—
Mitcheldean	984	277	—	200	30
Ruardean	1025	280	1	261	—
TOTAL EAST DEAN					
RURAL DISTRICT ..	20609	5700	68	4368	158

MEDICAL OFFICER'S SANITARY NOTES

Water Supply.

75.9% of dwellings have a mains water supply piped into the premises and another 2.7% are supplied by standpipe, making 78.6% altogether. The supply was good and frequent samples showed that the purity was satisfactory. It is good to see the progress made with the Southern Area scheme which will relieve the Greenbottom supply and make possible the extension of the mains to Blakeney and Awre. The supply from the Lime Kilns spring at Lydbrook is awaited and this will make possible the extension of the mains to Longhope. Premises in Huntley and Churcham were connected to the mains extended from Gloucester.

New Houses.

64 Council houses and 13 Private enterprise houses were completed during the year.

Housing Act, 1936, Section 11.

Six houses were condemned during the year and one Closing Order made.

Sewerage.

No new works were undertaken during the year but 39 connections were made to the sewers. Most of the urban parts of the district are well sewered but the sewerage of Blakeney is urgent.

Water Supply.

Mr. Harry Jones, the Council's Engineer and Surveyor, reports as follows:—

The yield from the sources of supply at Greenbottom was more than sufficient to maintain a continuous supply to all consumers during 1951.

The total quantity of water consumed during the year was 149,614,000 gallons, of which 106,280,000 was consumed in the parts of the district served from the Littledean Hill Reservoir and 43,334,000 in those parts of the district served from Ruardean Hill Reservoir.

5,655,000 gallons of water were supplied in bulk to the West Dean Rural District Council in order to serve the Joys Green District.

10,956,000 gallons of water were supplied for trade purposes, with 133,003,000 gallons being consumed for domestic use.

The average daily consumption of water per head of the population was 24 gallons.

81 new connections for dwellings were made to the Council's water mains, and 15 connections were made for supplies for other than domestic purposes, making 96 in all.

During the year extensions of the Council's water mains were made at Bilson Green, Cinderford; Sunnymeade, Drybrook; and Dancing Green, near Drybrook.

In the two former cases the extensions were necessary to serve further development of the Council's Housing Programme, and in the latter case a supply of water from Ennis' Well was piped to a stand pipe, and also to serve several cottages.

In July, 1951, commencement of the Southern Area Water Supply Scheme was made. This will ultimately provide a piped water supply for the village of Blakeney and the agricultural districts of Awre.

The first part of the Scheme comprises:—

- (a) the development of the supply.
- (b) gravitation mains.
- (c) construction of a pumphouse and installation of pumping machinery.
- (d) pumping main.
- (e) construction of a service reservoir with a capacity of 75,000 gallons.

In December work commenced on the Northern Area Water Supply Scheme. This Scheme will enable the Council to obtain a bulk supply from the West Dean Rural District Council which is now developing a source of supply within its own district.

In Huntley and Churcham Parishes the laying of new water mains was being carried out.

EAST DEAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1951

Drainage and Sewerage.

145 advisory visits were made in connection with drainage and sewerage.

There were 39 new connections to the sewer and where the sewer was not available 38 small sewage plants were constructed. These plants consisted of a liquefying chamber and a filtration chamber or two liquefying chambers and a soakaway where the subsoil was not so suitable.

Two sanitary conveniences were constructed for lock-up shops under the Shops Act, 1950.

Public Cleansing.

Either by the Council's direct labour or by contractors, all the parishes of the East Dean Rural District except Longhope parish now benefit by refuse collection. Longhope Parish Council made application to the East Dean District Council for a refuse collection at the end of the year and there was every hope of a collection commencing the following year.

A new refuse tipping site was found for Blakeney and Awre in an orchard on the Etloe road. This was an old wide watercourse which required culverting for the amount of surface water which it now serves.

All the refuse tips were treated regularly by the Rodent Operator.

Water Samples.

Samples of water were taken regularly from the East Dean Council Main supplies and submitted to bacteriological examination. Up to the month of August, samples were taken to the County analyst at Gloucester but afterwards were sent by rail to the Public Health Laboratory Service at Newport. Of the 18 samples taken, all were reported on as satisfactory.

There were eight requests for water samples from private wells, two of which were submitted for full examination. All reports were unsatisfactory. One of the full reports was required in view of the fact that the water was of such a nature that it was attacking the galvanised tank of a hot water system.

Ice Cream.

Number of premises registered for production—Hot Mix	..	2
Number of premises registered for production—Cold Mix	..	6
Number of premises registered for storage and sale only	..	45
		—
	Total	53
		—

31 samples were submitted for analysis for bacteriological and fat content. Summary of reports on samples:—

Methylene Blue Test	..	..	Grades	I	II	III	IV
				21	6	3	1

Subsequent samples of those in Grades III and IV came into Grade I or II.

Average fat content—8.72 %
(Food Standard requires 5 %).

On the retirement of Mr. Ellis, the County Analyst, in August, arrangements were made with Dr. Gray, of the Public Health Laboratory Service, at Newport, for the bacteriological examination of ice cream samples.

Prevention of damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Number of inspections	..	..	..	..	650
Number of treatments	..	..	..	..	224
Number of block control treatments			..	..	12

There was one case of Weil’s disease of a resident of Blakeney. This patient was treated in hospital and has now recovered.

Dairies.

Continued assistance and co-operation was readily given to the County Officers of the Ministry of Agricultural and Fisheries throughout the year especially concerning drainage and water supplies for cowsheds and dairies situated on farms.

Factories.

68 inspections of factories were made mainly to ensure the provision of suitable and sufficient sanitary accommodation under the Sanitary Accommodation Regulations 1938.

No certificates were issued for Means of Escape in case of fire under Section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937.

Public Health.

A survey of all public houses, clubs and hotels was carried out for sanitation and drainage, cleanliness, washing facilities with hot water and the preparation and storage of food.

Of the 70 premises inspected, 23 were satisfactory, 33 required minor alterations and 14 required major alterations.

As a result of a meeting with the owners calling the attention to the defects in the properties, several plans were received showing proposed alterations and additional work which they intend to carry out as soon as possible.

Nuisances from—Unfenced Pitshafts, Levels and Quarries were dealt with as nuisances under the Public Health Act, 1936, Coal Mines Act, 1911 or Quarry Fencing Act, 1887. They were either referred to the Deputy Gaveller or to the owners to be properly surrounded by a suitable structure to prevent accidents.

One exhumation was carried out as a result of intended building extension to a place of worship.

There were several requests for the disposal of dead dogs, cats and sheep killed on the highway where the owners could not be traced.

There were three cases of filthy and dirty premises which were successfully dealt with.

Only one request for disinfection of bedding and clothing was received and several disinfestations were carried out dealing with bed bugs, fleas, ants and even wasp nests.

Two licences were issued to station moveable dwellings on land under Section 268 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Housing.

Under Section II of the Housing Act, 1949, three applications were made for the quashing of demolition orders which had been made before the 1st day of January, 1946, and where considerable work had been done since to make the houses fit for human habitation. The Council made application to the County Court and the demolition orders were quashed on evidence that the houses were now fit for human habitation. On two other occasions it was necessary to attend Court to give evidence where the owners were taking action for the eviction of tenants.

Whenever houses in poor condition were vacated by the tenants they were inspected and considered for repairs or represented by the Medical Officer of Health for demolition as being incapable of being made fit at a reasonable expense.

Frequent visits to the office by prospective buyers of property seeking information of the conditions and categories of the houses were made, and on numerous occasions advice and assistance were given to landlords, owners and builders whenever improvements, alterations or major repairs were being considered by them.

Under Regulation 68A of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939, two licences were issued for the temporary use of houses subject to demolition orders.

Food.

Applications to the Food Office for catering licences required inspection of premises to comply with the requirements of Section XIII of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 and the new Food By-laws.

Seven licences were issued stating the premises were suitable for the preparation and storage of food before catering licences were considered by the Food Office.

An enquiry was made for licences under Sections 38 and 57 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, to slaughter horses and to sell horse flesh for human consumption, Owing to the difficulty of obtaining shop premises and premises to slaughter, the application was not proceeded with.

Inspections and Visits.

Slaughterhouse: 475 visits of which 224 were outside office hours, and 37 on holidays and week-ends, were made.

Under the Public Health Acts	..	..	..	757
Under the Housing Acts	..	..	..	175
In connection with infectious diseases	..	..	171	
In connection with water supply	..	..	69	
In connection with Rodent control	..	..	8	
Advisory	..	..	..	145
Food premises	..	..	..	228
Preliminary Notices served	..	..	..	13
Abatement Notices served	..	..	..	4

Dairies Inspections.

No of inspections	63
-------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----

Factories.

No. of inspections	68
--------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----

Meat.

Seven renewal licences to slaughter animals were issued under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

There were seven cases of Cysticercus Bovis found at the local slaughterhouse. These were found in the muscles of the head, heart or diaphragm. The carcasses were removed to cold storage at Gloucester and all offal was condemned.

Meat Condemned

24 Carcasses of Cattle	..	..	..	..	..	..	7581 lbs.
3 Carcasses of Calves	..	..	..	..	..	..	232 „
41 Carcasses of Sheep	..	..	..	..	..	..	1468 „
15 Carcasses of Pigs	..	..	..	..	..	..	1522 „
Beef	..	..	..	..	..	..	3124 „
Mutton	..	..	..	..	..	..	406 „
Pork	..	..	..	..	..	..	132 „
126 Bovine Heads	..	..	..	..	..	..	4013 „
194 Lungs	..	..	..	..	..	..	1647 „
386 Livers	..	..	..	..	..	..	5274 „
267 Part Livers	..	..	..	..	..	..	1585 „
454 Sheep Livers	..	..	..	..	..	..	909 „

Other Foods Condemned

Corned Beef, tins	..	..	..	..	..	23—6 lb. 6—11 lb.
Carcase Meat	..	..	..	..	..	230 lbs.
Meat, tins	..	..	..	..	..	57
Sausage	..	..	..	..	..	1 lb.
Fish	..	..	..	..	..	15 tins
Fishpaste	..	..	..	..	..	4 ozs.
Milk	..	..	..	..	..	98 tins
Fruit	..	..	..	..	..	59 tins
Vegetables	..	..	..	..	..	112 tins
Preserves	..	..	..	..	..	9 tins
Tea	..	..	..	..	..	26 lbs. 4 ozs.
Biscuits	..	..	..	..	..	3 packets
Barley Crystals	..	..	..	..	..	4 ozs.
Soup Squares	..	..	..	..	..	49 packets
Cooking Fat	..	..	..	..	..	20 lbs.
Cheese	..	..	..	..	..	3½ lbs.
Bacon	..	..	..	..	..	9 lbs. 17 ozs.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned, 1951.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1196	405	1814	6741	586
Number Inspected	1196	405	1814	6741	586
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcasses	5	18	2	41	14
Carcases of which some part was condemned ..	327	228	9	583	29
Percentage of number in- spected other than T.B. ..	27.7	60.7	0.06	9.25	7.33
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcasses	1	—	1	—	1
Carcases of which some part was condemned ..	99	96	—	—	36
Percentage of number in- spected T.B.	8.36	23.7	0.055	—	6.31

Analysis for Year 1951

Casualties:—

Heifers	7	Others	676	Totals	683
Cow Heifers	4	„	63	„	67
Steers	2	„	421	„	423
Bulls	9	„	14	„	23
Cows	18	„	387	„	405
Calves	13	„	1801	„	1814
Sheep and Lambs	85	„	6656	„	6741
Pigs	133	„	453	„	586
	271	„	10471	„	10742

This shows 271 casualties compared with 211 for the previous year which is an increase of 28.4%.

WEST DEAN RURAL DISTRICT

Area=24,154 acres; Population=18,171 (Census), Registrar General's Estimate =17,990.

Number of inhabited houses=5,407

Rateable value=£49,495; Product of 1d. rate=£179.

Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	131	106	237	8	5	13	139	111	250
Still Births	1	5	6	—	1	1	1	6	7
Deaths under 1 year	3	3	6	1	1	2	4	4	8
Deaths under 4 weeks	3	—	3	1	1	2	4	1	5

Birth Rate=13.9 births per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.10 this gives a corrected rate of 15.3.

Excess of births over deaths=250—249=1.

Death Rate=13.8 per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 0.97 this gives a corrected rate of 13.4.

Causes of Death

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system ..	5	1	6
Other forms of tuberculosis	1	—	1
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Cancer and other malignant neoplasms ..	20	14	34
Diabetes	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of the nervous system ..	9	14	23
Coronary disease and angina	16	5	21
Hypertension with heart disease	2	2	4
Other heart disease	27	29	56
Other circulatory disease	15	11	26
Influenza	4	3	7
Pneumonia	3	1	4
Bronchitis	11	5	16
Other diseases of the respiratory system ..	8	1	9
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	5	—	5
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	3	1	4
Hyperplasia of the prostate	2	—	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	2	2
Congenital malformations	—	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	9	11	20
Motor vehicle accidents	2	—	2
All other accidents	1	4	5
Suicide	—	1	1
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
All causes	143	106	249

Infectious Diseases Notified

			Measles	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia	Scarlet Fever	Erysipelas	Acute Encephalitis
Male ..	..	..	96	7	8	2	—	4
Female ..	..	..	101	7	6	—	1	—
Total ..	..	..	197	14	14	2	1	4
AGE GROUPS	0+	..	4	3	—	—	—	—
	1+	..	24	3	1	—	—	—
	3+	..	44	5	1	—	—	—
	5+	..	91	2	4	2	—	1
	10+	..	18	1	1	—	—	—
	15+	..	11	—	1	—	—	1
	25+	..	5	—	1	—	—	2
	45+	..	—	—	3	—	—	—
	65+	..	—	—	2	—	1	—
January ..	..	..	31	5	1	1	—	—
February ..	..	..	56	—	6	1	—	—
March ..	..	..	23	3	2	—	1	—
April ..	..	..	9	—	—	—	—	—
May ..	..	..	23	3	2	—	—	—
June ..	..	..	23	—	2	—	—	—
July ..	..	..	—	1	—	—	—	—
August ..	..	..	—	—	1	—	—	—
September ..	..	..	—	1	—	—	—	3
October ..	..	..	1	1	—	—	—	—
November ..	..	..	14	—	—	—	—	—
December ..	..	..	17	—	—	—	—	1
Coleford ..	..	..	13	1	—	2	—	—
English Bicknor ..	..	..	2	—	—	—	—	—
Lydbrook ..	..	..	42	3	2	—	—	—
Clearwell ..	..	..	5	2	—	—	—	—
Redbrook ..	..	..	—	1	—	—	—	—
Staunton ..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bream ..	..	..	84	4	10	—	—	—
Ellwood ..	..	..	8	—	—	—	—	—
Broadwell ..	..	..	7	—	—	—	1	—
Berry Hill ..	..	..	1	—	1	—	—	—
Milkwall ..	..	..	12	—	—	—	—	—
Pillowell ..	..	..	20	2	1	—	—	1
Parkend ..	..	..	1	—	—	—	—	1
Yorkley ..	..	..	2	—	—	—	—	2
Viney Hill ..	..	..	—	1	—	—	—	—

Population, Number of Houses and Mains Water Supply.

Parish or Ward	Population	Houses	Number of properties connected to mains supply	
			(a) direct	(b) standpipe
WEST DEAN PARISH:—				
Bream ..	2439	730	483	1
Ellwood ..	605	140	73	17
Broadwell ..	1705	504	381	—
Berry Hill ..	1644	404	288	19
Milkwall ..	662	201	105	—
Pillowell ..	1279	474	280	6
Parkend ..	774	183	177	—
Yorkley ..	1153	385	292	—
Viney Hill ..	457	132	53	11
TOTAL WEST DEAN PARISH				
..	10718	3153	2132	54
Coleford ..	3023	906	893	13
English Bicknor ..	535	156	106	4
Lydbrook Ward ..	1609	471	309	—
Joys Green Ward ..	918	312	251	—
Lydbrook Parish ..	(2527)	(783)	(560)	—
Newland—Clearwell ..	784	220	122	—
Newland—Redbrook ..	393	127	97	—
Total Newland Parish ..	(1177)	(347)	(219)	—
Staunton ..	193	62	50	—
TOTAL WEST DEAN RURAL DISTRICT				
..	18173	5407	3960	71

MEDICAL OFFICER'S SANITARY NOTES

Water Supply.

With the rapid increase in consumption owing to industry and housing development the supply of water from the springs and deep well becomes more precarious and work on the Lime Kiln Springs Scheme is being pressed with all possible speed. The Staunton reservoir (350,000 gallons) now only holds one day's supply.

158 tapplings were made to the mains during the year.

The Council adopted Bye-laws for preventing the waste of water under Section 17 of the Water Act, 1945.

72.9% of the properties in the District have mains water supply and another 1.3% are supplied by standpipe.

Housing.

56 Council and seven Private enterprise houses were completed during the year.

Housing Act, 1936, Section 11.

Eight Demolition Orders were made during the year, and it was decided to make a Clearance Order on 24 houses at the Square, Parkend.

Sewerage.

The sewerage of Coleford to the new Sewage works at Newland was a big advance. Some 500 houses in Coleford were connected to this system. Considerable sewerage problems remain to be dealt with in the District, Lydbrook and Bream being the first of these.

WATER SUPPLY

Mr. Ward, the Water Engineer, reports as follows:—

Redbrook Waterworks.

The unsettled weather conditions during the year 1951 were favourable for water supplies; in consequence the yield from all sources of supply proved sufficient for all requirements. No restriction of the supply was necessary; the rain maintained private water supplies to the extent that the demand from the public water mains was not so great as in dry years.

The daily water consumption continues to increase with property owners undertaking improvements to their houses and by connecting the property to the Council's water mains, discarding

the use of shallow wells or rain water collecting tanks. The extensive housing programme by the Council is adding to the demand on the supply. Water is required for milk production and stock purposes. Nearly all the schools in the Rural District are equipped with Canteens connected to the public supply. The industrial concerns are using more water for processing and production. It is noticed that the housewives possessing domestic hot water system facilities in their houses are undertaking more laundry work at home. The hot and cold water conveniences of a modern Council House add to the greater use of water.

The quantity of water from Redbrook pumped during the year totalled 121,000,000 gallons, an average daily consumption of 330,000 gallons. East Dean Waterworks supplied 5,655,000 gallons to Joys Green area, Lydbrook for domestic purposes. The average daily consumption per head of population is at a rate of approximately 20 gallons.

Lydbrook Waterworks.

The additional source of water supply from Limekiln Pool Springs, Lydbrook, to supplement existing Redbrook source of supply, should be available towards the end of Summer in 1952. The Contract for constructing the reservoir, supply mains and pumping station is well advanced by the Contractors. This additional supply should make the supply secure in times of drought.

Water Examination.

Samples of water from all sources of supply at Redbrook, together with the chlorinated water in Staunton Reservoir, were taken regularly each month and sent to the County Health Laboratories for testing. All the water used is sterilised by chlorine, before delivery into Staunton Reservoir for distribution, so that standard purity is maintained. 50% of the raw water, before treatment, was proved satisfactory.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Ice Cream.

No. on register, July, 1951:—						
Retailer—prepacked	..	..	..	..	..	32
Retailer/producer—cold mix	..	..	..	..	..	8
Retailer/Producer—hot mix	..	..	..	..	..	2
						—
						42
						—

No. of applications for registration refused:

One—retailer (pre-packed)—unsuitable premises.

Samples taken during the year: 26.

Details:—

Grade	I	II	III	IV
	19	5	2	—

Until October, 1951, the samples were taken to Gloucester and the details of the 24 sent there are:

	Not Present	1 Tube	2 Tubes	3 Tubes	More than 3 Tubes
BACCILLUS COLI ..	12	2	1	1	8
	Under 100	100/1,000	1,001/10,000	Over 10,000	
BACTERIAL COUNT ..	2	11	8	3	
FAT CONTENT					

(five samples only) Average 7.5%

The last two samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Newport.

The condition of sale and the 10 premises used for the preparation of ice cream were generally satisfactory. It became increasingly obvious during the year that the heavy amount of work involved in the making of hot and cold mix ice cream in a satisfactory manner was beyond the capacity of the small dealers and most of them turned over to the sale of pre-packed ice cream only. Only four persons regularly made their own ice cream by the end of the year.

Water Supply.

57 samples of water were taken during the year as follows:—Main—19 samples were taken of which 18 were excellent and one was slightly contaminated by non-faecal bacillus coli.

22 samples of the source of the supply were taken and of these 7 were excellent, 5 were very good and 10 were poor. The excellence of the system of chlorination is shown by the fact that, despite quite considerable variation in condition of the raw water, the main supply was, with one minor exception, entirely perfect from a purity point of view.

Private Supplies.

16 samples were taken, every one of which was unsatisfactory.

Where possible the main supply was provided and, in the other cases, the attention of the Council was drawn to the need

for an extension of the main supply so that the use of the poor supplies could cease. The reasons for the poor reports are:—

- (a) urban nature of a high proportion of the district
- (b) lack of sewerage schemes resulting in a large number of septic tanks and other disposal systems
- (c) extensive undermining allowing the polluting matter to be easily transferred below ground.

It is becoming increasingly important for every property to have the main supply for this is the only safe water available but the provision of an adequate supply of clean water often creates as many problems in drainage as it solves in water supply.

Swimming Pools.

Three pools are in constant use in the area for bathing and swimming. One, a well constructed, small, concrete pool at Clearwell where three samples showed the water to be mainly of quite fair purity, and two others which are natural sources, Cannop and Staunton Brickworks. The Cannop pool, which takes the flow of a reasonably pure stream, also takes the flow from the pumps which drain one of the large collieries in the area; the water from the Colliery is, without exception, considerably polluted. The brickworks ponds are the old workings of a large brickyard and are filled with water, mainly rain water, for there is no continuous flow into or out of the pond. These ponds are also polluted. Notices warning bathers were placed at both the Cannop pool and the Brickworks pond.

Section 259—Public Health Act, 1936

The Cannop ponds were being contaminated by oil from a large works and the five samples taken showed that this oil was present in serious amounts. The works concerned has now provided a properly constructed oil interceptor.

A complaint that the Council was polluting a water-course at Whitecroft was investigated and the reports showed that, despite the overflow from the Council's sewage disposal works to Council houses, the stream was better below their discharge than it was above.

The condition of the stream at Lydbrook was investigated and the reports showed that the stream became progressively more polluted as it approached its confluence with the River Wye. This was of importance to the Council as the flow of the stream is likely to reduce considerably in a few years owing to the abstraction of water by the Council from springs feeding the stream and the cessation of pumping by the Colliery at the head of the stream. The Council is giving urgent consideration to a sewerage scheme

for Lydbrook but the technical difficulties in designing such a scheme are immense.

Samples of watercress and of sewage effluent were found to be contaminated. The works was cleaned out and the public were warned not to pick and eat the watercress.

Newland R.A.F. Camp.

At the end of the year nine families continued to live mainly in the converted Langham huts forming this camp. The housing conditions of seven of the families were definitely sub-standard, and the Council was allocated 12 houses in the 1951 housing programme to allow the whole of the huts to be vacated and the site cleared. Only first aid repairs were carried out in order to keep the huts reasonably weatherproof.

Coleford Sewer.

During the year considerable progress was made with the new sewer and the Sewage Disposal Works were put into operation towards the end of 1951. Connections to the new sewers were in progress at the end of the year and the condition of the White-cliff Brook became considerably improved by December, 1951. Only by the removal of all the connections will this stream revert to its original condition of an upland surface stream.

The work involved in re-connection was immense; the amount of survey, testing and examination of drains was far greater than in normal towns due to the interconnections of drainage systems, the presence of polluted culverts laid many years ago for surface water drainage, and the very low standard of drainage work in the town. A high proportion of the writer's time was taken in the examination of drains, and drainage systems and in preparing and sending information to the Consulting Engineer on the many problems involved.

Drainage.

In addition to the Coleford sewerage scheme a number of private drainage systems were installed, entirely of the single tank "septic tank" system with the overflow soaking into the surrounding soil. The number of the tanks in the area now exceeds 500 and they give remarkably little trouble. The services of a specialist firm were used from time to time to empty tanks when required.

Refuse Collection.

System: Direct labour

Coverage: 90% of houses

Frequency of collection: Weekly

Disposal of refuse: Semi-controlled tipping using the large proportion of household ashes as cover.

Nuisances arising therefrom: Crickets, etc.,—nil

Rats and mice—dealt with by regular poisoning.

Night soil: 10 buckets per week collected.

Milk and Diaries Regs., 1949.

The following numbers of persons and premises were registered under these Regulations as reported to the Council in May, 1951.

Dairy premises	..	..	..	..	..	10
Distributors	..	..	..	..	..	42
						—
						52
						—

These numbers are more than last year due to the fact that the registrations under the Regulations are now complete.

39 samples were taken as follows:—

Satisfactory 18

Unsatisfactory 13

For animal inoculation: 8—all negative.

Of the unsatisfactory samples only two were poor and the balance were quite good. In each of the two bad samples further samples taken from the same retailer proved satisfactory. As a routine all milks used by families in which a case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis occurred were tested for tubercle content—none, as is shown above, contained tubercle.

Factories Act, 1937.

The 75 factories, entirely power factories, were not the subject of a single complaint from the Factories Inspector. The relations between the various managements and the writer were very good and all factories were visited during the year, many of them several times. The outworkers register was, for the first time, made a complete record and included 174 persons, mainly engaged in carding pins, etc.

The 17 bakehouses were kept in good condition.

Public Health Act, 1936—Section 101—Smoke Nuisances

The various factory chimneys were inspected from time to time and the quantity of black smoke emitted was kept to a minimum,

Requisitioned Houses.

The 22 requisitioned houses continued under the Council's control for a further year. Repairs as required were carried out. The Council agreed to release one house and to release others when they are vacated.

Condemned Houses Let on Licence

The Council renewed the licences for 14 houses condemned prior to the war for the two six monthly periods but decided that, on the vacation of any of them, they should not be re-let.

Housing.

72 preliminary notices and four abatement notices were served during the year and these resulted in minor repairs being carried out to make the properties concerned weatherproof. It was not considered reasonable to put the requirements of Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, and all the notices were served under Section 92(b) of the Public Health Act, 1936. The lack of adequate staff made follow-up work on some of the notices very difficult indeed.

Nine houses were considered under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, and these were houses which, by reason of inherent defects not easily capable of being dealt with, were considered to be beyond their useful life as houses.

Meat and Other Foods.

A small amount of food was condemned—again less than 1/10th of one per cent. of the vast quantity of tinned food consumed in the area. Some meat was condemned but it was solely on condition and not for any pathological defect.

Schools.

The 18 schools were visited during the year on numerous occasions and the conditions were found to be generally satisfactory. Action was commenced to try to get a proper drinking water fountain at one Junior School.

Licensed Houses and Clubs.

A further detailed report was presented to the Council and to the Coleford Magistrates on the sanitary conditions in these premises. The following basic requirements were presented to and accepted by both the Council and the Magistrates.

I. Sanitary Accommodation.

- (a) urinal for males, of adequate size and properly screened.
- (b) closet for males, preferably opening out of the urinal.

- (c) where women are allowed on the premises, and that is in every case except one Club, a separate closet should be provided for females. This should ideally be approached direct through a lobby out of one of the main licensed rooms and the approach be separate from that to the sanitary accommodation for males.
- (d) there should be an entirely separate closet for the licensee and family and this should not need to be used by any member of the public.

II. Washing Facilities.

- (a) every licensed premises should have the main, or equally pure, supply of water.
- (b) every House should have a sink with ample hot water thereto, either in the bar or the cellar, and to be used for trade purposes only.
- (c) this sink should discharge to a drain.
- (d) the licensees should be encouraged in the regular use of detergents or boiling water for only by these means can sterile glasses be assured. During busy times the only practical method, in my view, is by the use of detergents; it is useless to rinse glasses through in lukewarm or cold water.
- (e) beer engines and their piping should be cleaned weekly using salt and/or soda solution and should be thoroughly rinsed in clean cold water before reconnection.
- (f) the use of a cloth should be discouraged and all glasses should be air-dried wherever possible.

The report resulted in considerable publicity and the conditions of a number of Houses have improved as a result thereof. Further work is being carried out by the Brewery Companies concerned.

Housing Act, 1949.

Further enquiries were received about assistance under the above Act for the repair and improvement of premises. At the end of the year one application had been approved and the work of improvement to a modern bungalow (built 1936) was completed.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The Council's full-time operator carried out his duties under the above Act as follows:—

				RATS		MICE	
				Major	Minor	Major	Minor
Infestations	..	..	197	34	118	36	9
				<hr/>		<hr/>	
				152		45	
Visits	..	..	1411				
Treatments—by arrange-							
ments with occupiers	..	..	..	151	45		
Block Control	..	..	..	..	1		
				<hr/>		<hr/>	
				152		45	
				<hr/>		<hr/>	
Sewer manholes (twice yearly)				..	14		

Besides doing the rodent control work the operator also carried out two complete inspections of all the farms in the area and details of his investigations were sent to the County Agricultural Committee. The farms, generally speaking, were free from serious infestation by rats.

Petroleum Spirit

43 premises are licensed for the sale of petroleum spirit and 31 for calcium carbide. Following the serious explosion in a petrol store at Bristol a letter was sent to all those storing petroleum spirit in West Dean drawing attention to the requirements of the local authority and the need for constant care in handling petrol.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	839
Housing	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	361
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	327
Ice Cream	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	319
Water	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	316
Infectious Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	203
Tents, Vans and Sheds	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	163
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	159
Refuse	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	135
Food	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	117
Streams (Section 259 P.H.A. 1936)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	115
Milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	104
Nuisances	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	81
Public Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	80
Petrol	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	61
Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33
Schools	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
								<hr/>
								3,436
								<hr/>

LYDNEY RURAL DISTRICT

Area=25,544 acres.

Population=11,885 (Census), 11,880 (Registrar General's Estimate)

Number of inhabited houses=3,089.

Rateable value=£47,853. Product of 1d. rate=£188 15s. 9d.

Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	94	87	181	6	4	10	100	91	191
Still Births	2	3	5	—	—	—	2	3	5
Deaths under 1 year	1	2	3	1	—	1	2	2	4
Deaths under 4 weeks	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	2

Birth Rate=16.1 births per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.15 this gives a corrected rate of 18.5.

Excess of births over deaths=191—134=57.

Death Rate=11.3 deaths per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.01 this gives a corrected rate of 11.4.

Causes of Death

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system ..	3	1	4
Other forms of tuberculosis	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Cancer and other malignant neoplasms ..	20	7	27
Diabetes	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of the nervous system ..	9	7	16
Coronary disease, angina	11	2	13
Hypertension with heart disease	—	—	—
Other heart disease	16	13	29
Other circulatory disease	1	—	1
Influenza	5	8	13
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Bronchitis	6	2	8
Other diseases of the respiratory system ..	2	—	2
Ulcer of the stomach and duodenum ..	—	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of the prostate	—	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	6	7	13
Motor Vehicle accidents	2	—	2
All other accidents	—	—	—
Suicide	—	1	1
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
All causes	83	51	134

Infectious Diseases Notified

			Measles	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia	Scarlet Fever	Acute Encephalitis	Food Poisoning
Male ..	..	..	143	13	2	1	14	4
Female ..	..	..	107	18	1	6	—	3
Total ..	..	..	250	31	3	7	14	7
			0+	..	5	5	—	—
			1+	..	38	3	—	—
			3+	..	62	7	—	—
			5+	..	114	15	1	3
			10+	..	15	1	—	3
AGE GROUPS	15+	..	10	—	—	—	5	1
	25+	..	5	—	—	1	1	1
	45+	..	1	—	—	—	1	4
	65+	..	—	—	2	—	—	—
January ..	..	..	83	—	—	—	—	—
February ..	..	..	87	2	1	1	—	—
March ..	..	..	43	—	—	—	—	—
April ..	..	..	6	2	1	1	—	—
May ..	..	..	2	3	—	3	—	—
June ..	..	..	15	17	—	—	—	2
July ..	..	..	2	1	—	—	—	—
August ..	..	..	7	2	—	—	2	—
September ..	..	..	—	3	1	1	11	5
October ..	..	..	—	1	—	1	1	—
November ..	..	..	2	—	—	—	—	—
December ..	..	..	3	—	—	—	—	—
Lydney ..	..	..	26	3	—	1	8	5
Tidenham ..	..	..	96	27	1	3	5	—
St. Briavels ..	..	..	50	—	1	—	—	2
Aylburton ..	..	..	43	1	—	2	—	—
Woolaston ..	..	..	22	—	—	1	—	—
Hewelsfield ..	..	..	4	—	—	—	1	—
Alvington ..	..	..	9	—	1	—	—	—

Population, Number of Houses and Water Supply.

Parish	Estimated Population	Number of houses	Properties connected to Mains Water Supply	
			(a) direct	(b) Standpipe
Lydney ..	4878	1343	1258	—
Tidenham ..	2583	701	549	—
St. Briavels ..	1103	352	—	—
Aylburton ..	760	210	135	—
Woolaston ..	838	239	112	26
Hewelsfield ..	456	135	10	4
Alvington ..	382	109	75	12
TOTAL RURAL DISTRICT ..	11000*	3089	2139	42

*This is 885 below the Census total of 11,885 so as to allow for the apprentices and personnel of the Beachley Army Apprentices' Camp.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S SANITARY NOTES

Water Supply.

All the parishes except Tidenham await the supply of water from the borehole in the Aylesmore Valley. Lydney has a plentiful supply of water from the Ferneyley Spring and from the Tufts Level but the latter source is not entirely satisfactory in its purity. St. Briavels and Hewelsfield are without a piped supply and their growth is limited by this and water is needed in these parishes for agriculture. Woolaston also badly needs a mains supply as the local spring which is piped is not satisfactory in purity or in quantity. Tidenham has a uniformly pure supply from the Chepstow Water Company.

69.2% of the properties in the District have mains water supply and another 1.4% are supplied by standpipe.

Sewerage.

No new scheme had been started during the year. Aylburton village, parts of Tidenham, St. Briavels and Alvington badly need sewerage. Lydney alone of the parishes is properly sewered.

Housing.

22 Council houses and three Private houses were completed during the year.

Swimming Pools.

The Bathurst Swimming Pool at Lydney and the Beachley Swimming Pool were both satisfactory and were an asset to the District.

WATER SUPPLY

Lydney Main Supply.

Mr. H. Spratt, the Council's Surveyor, reports as follows:—

The water for this supply is derived from two sources, Ferneyley Springs and Tufts Level, and the estimated consumption is as follows:—

Yield of the Ferneyley Springs during the year	..	147,260,000
Amount utilised	.. .. .	58,926,000
Amount allowed to run to waste	.. .. .	88,334,000
Water used from Tufts Level	.. .. .	25,000,000

Tufts Level again provided part of the town supply without serious trouble, and consequently with this augmentation the demand could be supplied without restriction during the summer months. Both supplies are chlorinated, samples were taken and reported upon as fairly satisfactory.

There is a small private supply which provides water to the majority of the houses in Aylburton Village, and the remainder including the New Council Houses receive a supply from the Ferneyley Springs.

Netherend, Woolaston is supplied from springs at Woolaston Common, but the supply is inadequate during the summer months. This will be remedied when the mains are extended from Alvington. As no complaints were received from Alvington regarding inadequacy of water, the wisdom of the new main laid last year has been proved. This supply is also from Ferneyley Springs.

Tidenham and Beachley are supplied by the Chepstow Water Company, the Council Houses at Stroat and Hewelsfield have small piped supplies, but the remainder of the district excepting St. Briavels is supplied by wells, springs and in a few isolated cases rain water tanks. St. Briavels has a small piped supply in some cases to the houses, and others to standpipes. The supply requires improvement. During the year mains were laid to Housing Sites, and at the end of the year work was commenced on laying a new nine inch main from the Borehole to Ferneyley Pumping Station. The object of this main is to provide a safeguard to the areas already supplied, should trouble occur with the Tufts Level source. The new pump for the Borehole was delivered and negotiations completed for the electricity supply. Also a second borehole was commenced but progress is slow.

Work was carried out at The Spout at Brockweir, the spring is collected and run to a covered reservoir, and from this a gravitational supply is given to the village. The work was carried out by direct labour and has resulted in providing the village with piped water. All the inhabitants excepting two or three isolated cases made prompt applications for the water and connections were made when the main was laid.

The Consultant Engineers have prepared a scheme for the high Levels of St. Briavels and Hewelsfield which was forwarded to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, also details were prepared for the comprehensive scheme for the remainder of the District. Negotiations were also carried forward for the Booster Pump for Allaston Mesne but no conclusion for the site was reached.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Housing.

Improvements to 29 houses were carried out, 11 by owner occupiers.

In addition minor defects were remedied at 19 houses following informal action.

After reasonable repairs had been carried out to Nos. 1 and 4, Red Lion Court, Woodcroft, permission was granted for these cottages to be occupied for a period of two years.

Repairs to No. 3, Red Lion Court, Woodcroft, could not be carried out at a reasonable expense, therefore the application was refused.

Few of the overcrowded cases investigated were relieved. Licences to occupy six condemned properties were again issued for six-monthly periods.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 (SECS. 268—69)

Licences granted during the Year.

(a)	To use Land as sites for Moveable Dwellings	..	..	1
(b)	To Erect or Station and Use a Moveable Dwelling	..	..	6
(c)	Renewal of licences	..	..	4

Pen Moel Row, Tidenham—Clearance Order, 1937

Owing to the dangerous condition of the remaining houses not yet demolished on the above site, the owners were informed, but the difficulty here as in other matters relating to housing is to obtain a Contractor who is prepared to undertake the work.

DISINFECTION

Number of premises disinfected:—Tuberculosis	..	..	7
Other Diseases	..	..	26
Verminous	..	..	6

WATER SUPPLY

Eight samples of water were taken and submitted to Rowland H. Ellis, Esq., Analyst, Gloucester, for Bacteriological examination.

Reports are as follows:—

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Lydney	Half-Acre Cafe, Purlieu	Not entirely satisfactory.
	Bathurst Swimming Pool	Satisfactory.
	Tap at Mt. Pleasant, Lydney	Satisfactory.
	(Ferneyley Water Supply)	
	Tap at Whitecross Road, Lydney	Cannot be regarded as
	(Tufts Supply)	entirely satisfactory.
Aylburton	Park Row, Aylburton Common	Fairly Satisfactory.
	(June, 1951)	
	Park Row, Aylburton	Satisfactory.
	(May, 1951)	
Tidenham	Beachley Swimming Pool	Satisfactory.
St. Briavels	Barrow Well, St. Briavels	Fairly satisfactory.

Public Wells.

Improvements were carried out to six public Wells in the parishes of St. Briavels, Hewelsfield and Tidenham.

Milk and Diaries Regulations, 1949.

Producer Retailers	.. .. .	43
Retail Purchasers	.. .. .	7
Dairies not at Farm	.. .. .	2

Twenty-one milk samples were taken from retail suppliers of milk in course of delivery; 17 were satisfactory, 4 being unsatisfactory.

Summary of the reports are as follows:—

9 Milk Samples: No B. Coli present.	Number of Bacteria per 1 c.c. varied from 6,000 to 372,000
3 Milk Samples: B.Coli present in 1 c.c.	Number of Bacteria per 1 c.c. varied from 5,000 to 160,000
5 Milk Samples: B.Coli present in 1/10th c.c.	Number of Bacteria per 1 c.c. varied from 5,000 to 360,000.
2 Milk Samples: B.Coli present in 1/100th c.c.	Number of Bacteria per 1 c.c. varied from 160,000 to 240,000.
2 Milk Samples: B.Coli present in 1/1000th c.c.	Number of Bacteria per 1 c.c. over 500,000.

**The Milk (Special Designation)
(Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.**

Under the above Regulations 8 samples were taken in course of delivery and submitted for analysis. Four of these samples did not satisfy the Official Test.

**The Milk (Special Designation)
(Pasteurised and Sterilized Milk) Regulations, 1949.**

19 samples taken for analysis from retail suppliers of milk, dairies and Schools during the year satisfied the Official Test.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947.

Number on the Register:—Retailer Producer—Pre-packed	..	21
Retailer Producer—Cold-mix.	..	2
Retailer Producer—Hot-mix.	..	0

Fourteen samples were submitted for Bacteriological examination and for Fat-Content. Reports on all samples were satisfactory.

Grade	..	..	..	I	II	III	IV	V	Total
				12	2	0	0	0	14

BACTERIAL COUNT	.. Under 100	100-1,000	1,000-10,000	.. Over 10,000
	0	8	5	1
FAT CONTENT	.. Under 2½ %	2½-5 %	5-10 %	Over 10 %
	0	0	9	5

AVERAGE FAT-CONTENT: 8.95 %

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949
REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1951

		Type of Property				Total
		Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other including Business & Indust'l		
I	Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	3024	174	349	3547	
II	Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1951 as a result of (a) notification or (b) otherwise	(a) — (b) 400	— 18	— 50	— 468	
III	Number of properties (under II) found to be infested by rats	(Major) — (Minor) 84	— —	— 18	— 102	
IV	Number of properties (under II) found to be seriously infested by mice	10	—	6	16	
V	Number of infested properties (under III and IV) treated by the Local Authority	188	—	48	236	
VI.	Number of notices served under Section 4:— (1) Treatment (2) Structural Works (i.e. Proofing)	nil nil	nil nil	nil nil	nil nil	
VII	Number of cases in which default action was taken by Local Authority following issue of notice under Section 4	nil	nil	nil	nil	
VIII	Number of (Block) control schemes carried out ..	7				

MEAT REGULATIONS

Carcases Inspected and Condemned for Year 1951.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	101	36	5	3972	66
Number Inspected (Total: 4180)	101	36	5	3972	66
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole Carcases con- demned	0	0	0	13	5
Carcase of which some part or organ was con- demned	65	15	2	736	15
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	64.3%	41.6%	40%	18.8%	30.3%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole Carcases con- demned	0	2	0	0	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	10	0	0	0	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	9.9%	5.5%	0	0	1.5%

The amount of meat condemned as Unfit for Human Consumption was:—

Cattle:—

2 Cow Carcases	..	..	..	..	..	1452 lbs.	
3 Forequarters of Beef	..	..	..	..	..	384 lbs.	
1 Hindquarter of Beef	..	..	..	..	..	57 lbs.	
13 Bovine Heads	..	..	..	..	..	456 lbs.	
20 Lungs	..	..	..	..	..	191 lbs.	
54 Livers	..	..	..	..	..	738 lbs.	
Beef offal	..	..	..	..	..	196 lbs.	Total 3474 lbs.

Sheep and Lambs:—

13 Sheep Carcases	..	..	..	..	..	473 lbs.	
36 Heads and Plucks	..	..	..	..	..	172 lbs.	
720 Sheep Livers	..	..	..	..	..	1142 lbs.	
Mutton	..	..	..	..	..	23 lbs.	Total 1810 lbs.

Pigs:—

6 Carcases	..	..	..	..	..	785 lbs.	
16 Plucks	..	..	..	..	..	99 lbs.	
3 Livers	..	..	..	..	..	11 lbs.	
3 Heads	..	..	..	..	..	15 lbs.	Total 910 lbs.

Calves:—

1 Head	..	..	..	..	..	12 lbs.	
1 Liver	7 lbs.	Total 19 lbs.
Imported Beef	69 lbs.	

Total amount condemned	6282 lbs.
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The number of pigs slaughtered on unlicensed premises: 312.

NOTE—The Lydney Food Executive Officer issued 312 licences to self-suppliers.

Other Foods Condemned as unfit for Human Consumption:—

902 tins of various foodstuffs; 12 lbs. Cheese; 4 doz. eggs; 116 lbs. Imported Ham; Case of Hares.

LYDNEY SHIPPING

Amount of Shipping Entering the Port During the Year 1951.

	Number	Tonnage	Number reported to be defective	No. of Vessels on which defects were remedied	Total Inspected by San. Insp.
COASTWISE					
Steamers ..	1	105	0	0	0
*Motors ..	533	31157	0	0	24
Sailing ..	236	14356	0	0	12
Fishing ..	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL ..	770	45618	0	0	36

No Foreign Shipping entered the port during the year.

*Includes mechanically propelled vessels other than steamers.

GENERAL

Complaints Received:—

Nuisances reported to District Council	77
(a) Total	77
(b) Swine	3
Number of nuisances abated	72
Number of preliminary notices served	77
Statutory notices served	2
Nuisances unabated	5

Note—The work of inspection and treatment of premises is carried out by the Pests Officer who is employed jointly by the Lydney and East Dean Rural District Councils.

Therefore the above report is for six-months work carried out in the Lydney area.

Petroleum Acts.

Number of licences issued by the Council under the above Acts

for the storage of petroleum spirit was 37

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

On the 10th April, and 16th May, I attended the Coleford and Lydney Magistrates Court to lay information in regard to certain persons who had been reported for a contravention of Section 154 (1) (b) under the above Act.

Number inspected of each of the following:—

Premises or Occupations subject to Statutory Control:—

Under the Shops Act, 1950.						Inspections
(a)	Butchers' Shops	..	..	..	..	71
(b)	Grocers' Shops	..	..	..	..	94
(c)	Other Trades	..	..	..	..	63
(d)	Catering Establishments	..	..	..	..	57
						Total 285

				Number on Register	Number Inspected	Total Number of Inspections
Slaughterhouse	..	..	..	10	1	201
Dairies	..	..	..	2	2	27
Bakehouses	..	..	..	11	11	31
Factories	..	..	..	31	31	54
Workshops	..	..	..	24	24	39

FACTORIES ACT, 1937-48

During the Year:—			Added	Deleted	Change
Factories	..	..	1	2	2
Workshops	..	..	0	4	0

Outworkers:—

Whitecroft Pin Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Harbour Road,					
Lydney, Glos.	..	..	..	..	17
J. Allen Rubber Co., Ltd., Harbour Road, Lydney Glos.	..				6

